

Appl. No. 10/692,969
Reply to Office Action of: June 28, 2006

Attorney Docket No. 10541-1898

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I. Amendments to the Specification

SEP 28 2006

Please replace paragraphs [0024] and [0026] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0024] The bearing shaft 12 supports an inboard inner race 36 and an outboard inner race 38. As shown in figures Figures 1 and 2, the inboard inner race 36 is a separate component mounted onto the bearing shaft 12 and the outboard inner race 38 is integrally formed within the bearing shaft 12[.]. Alternatively, the outboard inner race 38 can also be a separate component mounted onto the bearing shaft 12, as shown in Figure 13.

[0026] The inboard end 14 of the bearing shaft 12 includes a flange portion 42. The flange portion 42 engages the inboard inner race 36 to provide a support for the wheel bearing 26 thereby keeping the wheel bearing 26 positioned on the bearing shaft 12 and inducing a pre-load into the wheel bearing 26. The flange portion 42 is formed by swagging swaging a portion of the bearing shaft 12 over and against the wheel bearing 26. The flange portion 42 maintains a pre-load on the wheel bearing 26 when the outboard joint 20 is removed from the wheel end assembly 10.